

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *First Opinions—Second Reactions: Reviews of Recent Children’s and Young Adult Literature*. We are very excited about this publication, and we hope it will be the first installment in a long series of issues dedicated to reviewing contemporary children’s and young adult literature through various thematic and contextual lenses.

We have several goals for the journal. First, we hope to provide a forum for teachers, scholars, and students to learn about books that they may not otherwise encounter and to allow them to integrate exciting, new titles into their curricula or scholarly works. Second, we want to provide a space not only for the publication of quality reviews, but also for the “reactions” of teachers and scholars to these reviews after the materials have been introduced to students at various instructional levels. In this way, we are striving to create a dialogue between all who are interested in the study and classroom teaching of children’s and adolescent literature.

Each issue will revolve around a topic or issue relevant to contemporary children’s and young adult literature. This issue centers on international literature, or literature written by, for, or about individuals from around the globe. We open the issue with three intriguing commentaries from literary scholars, writers, and educators in Australia, Israel, and India. Then, we offer reviews of books written by authors and illustrators from Mexico, Central America, Australia, Israel, and the United States. Finally, classroom teachers and youth librarians working in various school and library settings respond to the reviews and the books. We hope these commentaries, reviews, and reactions enrich your teaching and thinking about children’s and adolescent literature depicting the myriad experiences of children and adolescents around the world. Future issue themes will include social realism, fantasy, and biography.

We hope you will join in our conversations. Thanks for reading, and enjoy!

*Jill P. May, Janet Alsup, and Christine King*  
*Co-editors*